News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monthly News Release

OMAHA – Dry conditions continue across the Missouri River basin. Water stored in the reservoirs is well below normal, triggering additional water conservation measures.

"Based on our July 1 system storage, Missouri River navigation targets have been reduced 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Flow targets are now set at the minimum service level," said Larry Cieslik, Chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management Division in Omaha.

The Corps had planned to increase releases from Gavins Point to meet downstream water needs, but was notified by the Fish and Wildlife Service that it cannot move nests or collect eggs of the least tern or piping plover, two protected shorebirds. With this constraint, the Corps may not be able to meet navigation service flows from Nebraska City to the Mississippi through mid-August.

"Releases from Gavins Point are currently set at 25,500 cfs. With the falling tributary flows, we will probably not be able to meet navigation target flows from Nebraska City to Kansas City during the nesting season, which normally runs through late August," said Cieslik. The closing date for navigation will remain Dec. 1.

June's runoff was 4.3 MAF, 79 percent of normal. "Our runoff forecast above Sioux City for 2002 has been reduced to 18 million acre feet (MAF) due to the persistent dry conditions," said Cieslik. Annual runoff is normally 25.2 MAF.

Mountain snowpack is nearly melted and will continue to come into the reservoirs over the next two weeks. "Runoff from the snowpack helped increase storage by 1 MAF during June," said Cieslik. System storage ended the month at 48.8 MAF. Last year at this time it was 54.7 MAF. The amount of water in the reservoirs is more than 12 MAF lower than average, putting the three largest main stem lakes 12-19 feet below normal.

Gavins Point releases averaged 24,900 cfs during June, compared to a normal of 31,200 cfs. Lewis and Clark Lake, which is near elevation 1205.5 feet above mean sea level (msl), will gradually rise to elevation 1206 feet msl during July.

Fort Randall releases averaged 24,100 cfs in June. They will range from 26,000 to 29,000 cfs in July as needed to maintain Lewis and Clark near its desired elevation. Lake Francis Case rose nearly 5 feet during June ending the month at elevation 1354.4 feet msl. The lake will remain near its current elevation through the summer.

Lake Oahe dropped more than two feet during June, ending the month at elevation 1592.7 feet msl. It will drop nearly two feet during July, ending the month almost 19 feet below normal. The lake is 16 feet lower than last year at this time.

Garrison releases averaged 20,900 cfs during June. They will remain at 21,000 cfs during July and August, before dropping to 14,000 cfs in September. Lake Sakakawea ended June at 1831.4 feet msl. It will drop less than one foot in July, ending the month 12 feet below normal. The lake is 2 feet lower than last year at this time.

Fort Peck releases averaged 8,600 cfs during June. They were reduced to 7,000 cfs during two separate high water events on the Milk River. They returned to 9,000 cfs on July 8, and will remain at that rate during the summer. Releases will drop to 4,500 cfs in September. The lake ended the month at elevation 2219.9 feet msl. It will drop one foot during July, ending the month 19 feet below normal. Last year at this time it was 3 feet higher.

The six main stem powerplants generated 562 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity in May, 67 percent of normal. Given the forecasted inflow this year, energy production should be 7.3 billion kWh compared to a normal of 10.2 billion kWh.

Daily and forecasted reservoir and river information is available on the water management section of the Northwestern Division homepage at www.nwd.usace.army.mil**.**

MISSOURI RIVER MAIN STEM RESERVOIR DATA

	Pool Elevation (ft msl)		Water in Storage - 1,000 acre-feet		
	On June 30	Change in June	On June 30	% of 1967-2001 Average	Change in June
Fort Peck	2219.9	+1.8	12,278	76	+337
Garrison	1831.4	+3.1	16,313	83	+863
Oahe	1592.7	-2.6	14,665	75	-703
Big Bend	1420.9	+2.7	1,737	101	+151
Fort Randall	1354.4	+4.6	3,484	88	+378
Gavins Point	1204.8	-1.0	329	84	-24
			48,806	79	+1002

WATER RELEASES AND ENERGY GENERATION FOR JUNE

	Average Release in 1,000 cfs	Releases in 1,000 af	Generation in 1,000 MWh
Fort Peck	8.6	509	81
Garrison	20.9	1243	173
Oahe	32.5	1935	272
Big Bend	28.2	1678	98
Fort Randall	24.1	1432	146
Gavins Point	24.9	1482	64
			834